

Claims 1-17 (canceled)

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18. (original) A method of manufacturing a countertop assembly comprising the steps of:

5 providing a horizontal deck having an upper and a lower surface and an elongated vertical edge surface; and

an elongated molded strip; and

Q1 fixing the elongated molded strip to the elongated vertical edge surface of the horizontal deck.

10 19. (original) The method of manufacturing a countertop assembly of claim 18 wherein the elongated molded strip has an exposed outer surface and on said exposed outer surface there is a pattern.

15 20. (original) The method of manufacturing a countertop assembly of claim 19 wherein the elongated strip is generally concave.

20 21. (original) The method of manufacturing a countertop assembly of claim 19 wherein the molded pattern on the outer surface of the elongated molded strip comprises at least one ridge.

22. (original) The method of manufacturing a counter assembly of claim 19

wherein the molded pattern on the outer surface of the elongated molded strips comprises at least one recess.

23. (original) The method of manufacturing a countertop assembly of claim 19 wherein the molded pattern on the outer surface of the elongated molded strip comprises a continuous ridge or recess.

24. (original) The method of manufacturing a countertop assembly of claim 19 wherein the molded pattern on the outer surface of the elongated molded strip comprises a plurality of discrete ridges or recesses.

25. (original) The method of manufacturing a countertop assembly of claim 24 wherein the elongated molded strip is comprised of a molded pattern on the outer surface of the elongated molded face strip comprises at least one ridge.

26. (original) The method of manufacturing a countertop assembly of claim 18 wherein the elongated molded strip is comprised of a polymeric material.

27. (original) The countertop assembly of claim 18 wherein the elongated molded face strip has an inner surface and said face strip is attached to the elongated vertical edge surface of the horizontal deck at said inner surface.

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28. (original) The method of manufacturing a countertop assembly of claim 18 wherein the elongated molded strip is connected to the elongated vertical surface of the horizontal deck by a tongue and groove joint.

29 (original) The method of manufacturing a countertop assembly of claim 18 wherein a planar protective covering is superimposed on the upper surface of the horizontal deck.

30. (original) The method of manufacturing a countertop assembly of claim 29 wherein the protective covering is a laminate.

31. (original) The method of manufacturing a countertop assembly of claim 18 wherein the lower surface of the horizontal deck is vertically superimposed on an elongated build up member having an elongated vertical edge surface which is vertically aligned with the elongated vertical edge surface of the horizontal deck, and the horizontal molded face is superimposed over both the elongated vertical edge surface of the horizontal deck and the elongated vertical edge surface of the elongated build up member.

32. (original) The method of manufacturing a countertop assembly of claim 31 wherein a planar protective covering is superimposed on the upper surface of the horizontal deck.

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33. (original) The method of manufacturing a countertop assembly of claim 32 wherein the protective covering is a laminate.

34. (original) The method of manufacturing a countertop assembly of claim 33 wherein the planar protective covering has an elongated front vertical edge surface which is vertically aligned with the elongated front vertical edge surface of the horizontal deck and the build up member.